

PREP Advisory Committee meets:

On January 30th, the PREP advisory committee met to discuss PREP and advise on future directions.

After updates on progress to date, the advisory committee discussed the following:

- Should we add other professionals? If so, which ones?
 - Publicizing the PREP program
 - Sources of financial support
 - Other
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- There was support for inviting boards of pharmacy to join PREP in 2002. All boards of pharmacy will receive a letter in April encouraging them to join PREP. (All boards of medicine and nursing not now PREP participants will also be formally re-invited to participate.) Other suggestions were to add psychology boards, respiratory therapy boards, and physical therapy boards; and one member suggested that all licensing boards that regulate licensees who work in hospitals be invited to participate. There was a discussion of the financial constraints at CAC that limit our ability to open up the program that broadly at this time.
 - It was suggested that CAC publicize PREP by preparing a document that not only summarizes the first year of the program, but also highlights the relationship of PREP to system safety efforts, and clearly differentiates between board discipline programs and PREP, pointing out that PREP is not designed to be an alternative to discipline, but rather as a program which should be offered to licensees at the earliest signs of skill or knowledge deficiencies, but before these deficiencies result in the licensee becoming a candidate for discipline. CAC agreed that such a report would be useful. ***(NOTE: the resulting report will be published in April 2002 and will be on the 4patientsafety.net website on May.)***
 - The committee also suggested that a “fourth person” be added to the table when a remediation program is being developed for a PREP participant. The suggestion was to include an individual with a QI background, in order to better link PREP to desirable system safety fixes. The “fourth person” would be in addition to the licensee, a licensing board person, and the licensee’s supervisor.

Other issues discussed included:

- Legal and legislative issues
- Board staffing needs to implement PREP

The advisory committee agreed that CAC should convene a meeting of participating boards and hospitals to share information about assessment techniques and development of remediation programs.